

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

April 21, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 3161

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 3161, entitled "A Bill for an Act Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation."

The purpose of this bill is to make an emergency appropriation in the amount of \$25,000,000, for fiscal year 2007-2008, to the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to ensure that HHSC can pay for the operation and provision of current levels of service at Leahi Hospital, Maluhia, Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital, Lana'i Community Hospital, Hilo Medical Center, Ka'u Hospital, Kona Community Hospital, Kohala Hospital, and Maui Memorial Medical Center.

This bill originally appropriated \$14,000,000 for HHSC and did not include moneys for the Maui Memorial Medical Center. The Legislature amended it by adding section 4, which makes an additional appropriation of \$11,000,000 for the Maui Memorial Medical Center, with expenditure of the money conditioned on whether the operating loan that was being negotiated by the Maui Memorial Medical Center did not close before April 4, 2008. The operating loan did not close until April 10, 2008; therefore, the section 4 appropriation of \$11,000,000 will be effective. However, because the operating loan did close and the additional \$11,000,000 appropriation for Maui Memorial Medical Center is no longer needed, this appropriation should now be deleted.

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Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution provides that, "[e]xcept for items appropriated to be expended by the judicial and legislative branches, the governor may veto any specific item or items in any bill which appropriates money for specific purposes by striking out or reducing the same."

Therefore, pursuant to my line item veto authority, I have stricken out the \$11,000,000 appropriation from section 4 at line 12 on page 2 of the bill by drawing a line through the \$11,000,000 appropriation out of the general fund for fiscal year 2007-2008 for the Maui Memorial Medical Center and changing the amount to \$0.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill No. 3161 with the appropriation in section 4 totaling \$11,000,000 in general fund appropriations for fiscal year 2007-2008, stricken out and reduced to \$0.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Lingle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii